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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/016,724      | 10/30/2001  | Trent W. Davis       | 930007-2001         | 4458             |

20999 7590 03/14/2006

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NEW YORK, NY 10151

EXAMINER

BASINGER, SHERMAN D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3617

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                          |                     |              |  |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Interview Summary</b> | Application No.     | Applicant(s) |  |
|                          | 10/016,724          | DAVIS ET AL. |  |
|                          | Examiner            | Art Unit     |  |
|                          | Sherman D. Basinger | 3617         |  |

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Sherman D. Basinger. (3) Mr. Santutci.  
 (2) Mr. Anthony Mustillo. (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

Date of Interview: 03 March 2006.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference  
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.  
 If Yes, brief description: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) discussed: pending claim 1 and the claims faxed March 8, 2006.

Identification of prior art discussed: Cunningham and Doerpinghaus.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

 3/3/06  
**SHERMAN BASINGER**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

## Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

### Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

### Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

#### Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

#### 37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,  
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

### Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: through discussions of the art of record and pending claim 1 on March 2, 2006 it was agreed that if claim 1 were amended to define the clamping pin and the non rotation of 36 and 46 with respect to each other during the clamping, claim 1 would receive favorable consideration. on March 8, 2006 Mr. Mustillo faxed a proposed claim 1 and new claims 16-23. the examiner pointed out via telephone that claim 1 failed to include any language with regard to the clamping pin and also pointed out that filing new claims after final without canceling an equal number of claims was reason for non-entry of an amendment after final. It was agreed that by adding the subject matter to claim 1 as proposed in the fax found in lines 16-18 of proposed new claim 16, proposed claim 1 would be allowable over the art of record..

U.S. Application No. 10/016,724  
**DRAFT Claims**

PATENT  
930007-2188

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible fluid containment vessel for the transportation and/or containment of cargo comprising a fluid or fluidisable material, said vessel comprising:  
an elongated flexible tubular structure having an interior and exterior and being comprised of fabric having a first circumference;  
means for rendering said tubular structure impervious;  
said tubular structure having a front end and a rear end;  
means for filling and emptying said vessel of cargo;  
wherein at least one of said front end or rear end is so formed so as to define an opening having a second circumference which is less than that of the first circumference; and  
clamping mechanism for closing said opening, said mechanism having a receiving portion in which said end is inserted between a ring portion having a radially extending member with a curved engaging surface which extends radially outward and a ring receiving surface having a corresponding geometry to said ring portion wherein said ring portion and said ring receiving surface remain rotationally fixed with respect to one another when an adjustable a clamping force is exerted by the clamping mechanism clamping said end between said ring portion and said ring receiving surface thereby affixing said mechanism to said end.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled).
4. (Previously Presented) The vessel in accordance with claim 1 wherein ring receiving surface includes a complementary curved surface to that of the radially extending member.

U.S. Application No. 10/016,724  
DRAFT Claims

PATENT  
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5. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 4 wherein said ring portion includes an axially located hub supported thereon, said ring receiving surface includes an axially located member which is axially aligned with said hub and a load bearing device coupled between said hub and said axial member so as to effect a load therebetween so as to provide a clamping force.
6. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 5 wherein said load bearing device is adjustable so as to adjust the amount of the clamping force.
7. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 5 wherein said ring portion and ring receiving surface include openings that allow the egress and ingress of fluid to and from the interior of the tubular structure.
8. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 7 wherein the ring portion is located on the interior and the ring receiving surface is located on the exterior with said ring receiving surface having means for closing off flow of fluid to and from the tubular structure.
9. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 1 wherein said clamping mechanism includes means for coupling a tow cable thereto.
10. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 8 wherein said clamping mechanism includes means for coupling a tow cable thereto.

U.S. Application No. 10/016,724  
**DRAFT Claims**

PATENT  
930007-2188

11. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 1 wherein said clamping mechanism is made from metal or a reinforced composite.
12. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 8 wherein said clamping mechanism is made from metal or a reinforced composite.
13. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 1 wherein said clamping mechanism is located on the front end and rear end.
14. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 5 wherein said clamping mechanism is located on the front end and rear end.
15. (Canceled).
16. (New) A flexible fluid containment vessel for the transportation and/or containment of cargo comprising a fluid or fluidisable material, said vessel comprising:  
an elongated flexible tubular structure having an interior and exterior and being comprised of fabric having a first circumference;  
means for rendering said tubular structure impervious;  
said tubular structure having a front end and a rear end;  
means for filling and emptying said vessel of cargo;  
wherein at least one of said front end or rear end is so formed so as to define an opening having a second circumference which is less than that of the first circumference; and

U.S. Application No. 10/016,724  
DRAFT Claims

PATENT  
930007-2188

a clamping mechanism for closing said opening comprising:

a first ring portion having a radially extending member with a curved engaging surface which extends radially outward;

a second ring portion having a ring receiving surface with a corresponding geometry to said curved engaging surface of said first ring portion;

a clamping device disposed through an aperture in at least one of said first ring portion and said second ring portion and which slidably engages the at least one aperture in an axial direction; and

wherein said clamping device exerts an adjustable clamping force clamping said end between said first ring portion and said second ring portion thereby affixing said clamping mechanism to said end.

17. (New) The vessel in accordance with claim 16 wherein the ring receiving surface includes a complementary curved surface to that of the radially extending member.

18. (New) The vessel in accordance with claim 17 wherein said first ring portion includes an axially located hub supported thereon, said second ring portion includes an axially located member which is axially aligned with said hub and a load bearing device coupled between said hub and said axial member so as to effect a load therebetween so as to provide a clamping force.

19. (New) The vessel in accordance with claim 18 wherein said load bearing device is adjustable so as to adjust the amount of the clamping force.



U.S. Application No. 10/016,724  
**DRAFT Claims**

PATENT  
930007-2188

20. (New) The vessel in accordance with claim 18 wherein said first ring portion and said second ring portion include openings that allow the egress and ingress of fluid to and from the interior of the tubular structure.

21. (New) The vessel in accordance with claim 20 wherein the first ring portion is located on the interior and the second ring portion is located on the exterior with said second ring portion having means for closing off flow of fluid to and from the tubular structure.

22. (New) The vessel in accordance with claim 16 wherein said clamping mechanism includes means for coupling a tow cable thereto.

23. (New) The vessel in accordance with claim 21 wherein said clamping mechanism includes means for coupling a tow cable thereto.